

Carpentersville beautifying its Old Town area



Carpentersville officials plan to continue their beautification efforts along the river walk. (Erin Sauder / The Courier-News)

By **Erin Sauder**
Elgin Courier-News

MARCH 2, 2017, 8:32 PM

Carpentersville officials are forging ahead on beautification efforts for the Old Town area, voting to use tax increment financing funds to pay to bury some power poles and overhead utilities along South Washington Street as well as at the Lincoln and Main intersection.

The village also plans to continue efforts along the Fox River, similar to what has been done at both the Timothy R. McNamee and John "Jack" Hill Memorial parks, Village Manager Mark Rooney said.

"We'll be putting in native (plant) species, flowers and brush along the river within the limits of what (U.S.) Army Corps (of Engineers) permit," he said.

The Old Town neighborhood encompasses the areas along the Fox River, the Washington and Main intersection, Carpenter Park and south to the village's border with East Dundee. The utility and beautification

8 weeks for 99¢ - Ends 3/5
Sunday Delivery + Digital

START TRIAL >

That plan was created with assistance from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and adopted by the Village Board in 2012. One element was the establishment of a riverwalk on both sides of the river.

Rooney said the improvements will create a nicer image for Carpentersville. He also praised the work that Tom Roeser, president of OTTO Engineering, is doing on the properties he owns in that area. Roeser had the two vacant quonset huts located on Washington Street demolished and is leaving it as open space for now. The building he owns at 260 S. Washington St., which formerly housed Milk Specialties Co., is being renovated.

Roeser said there has been some interest in the 26,000-square-foot building, including from an engineering office, a banquet hall and a small industrial distributor.

"Tom has done all that work on his buildings, and we're doing the work on the public area and riverfront," Rooney said. "It's going hand-in-glove with some of the work he's already performed."

Erin Sauder is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

Copyright © 2017, Elgin Courier-News